

RE: West Virginia questions

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To: Brad McElhinny <Brad.McElhinny@wvradio.com>;

Brad, hello. To your questions, responses in **bold**.

There has been talk for a long time about West Virginia revising its Action Plan to reflect a lower housing need and a greater economic development need. Has the state submitted a proposed amendment to do so, and has there been a HUD response?

West Virginia has not submitted an action plan amendment in support of any change to its anticipated use of CDBG-DR funds.

Has HUD provided any written guidance to West Virginia over the past few months regarding the housing/economic development issue?

HUD is offering substantial technical assistance to help the State build its capacity to address a number of recovery issues. In general, HUD requires each grantee to address unmet housing needs before funding economic revitalization or infrastructure activities. The State cannot reprogram funds to economic development without first demonstrating that the housing needs in West Virginia have been met.

I see on the official RISE site that there is an Action Plan Amendment 3 that allows greater amounts for mobile homes and new houses: <https://wvfloodrecovery.com/useful-resources/> Probably no big deal and not really what I'm asking about in the grand scheme. But the prior amendments that are listed include HUD approval documentation. Was there none for Amendment 3, or was it just not posted?

We are currently reviewing this Action Plan Amendment.

This story in The Charleston Gazette-Mail includes the general counsel for the Governor's Office insisting the state Department of Commerce leads RISE, although all of us deal with the National Guard:

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/politics/flood-recovery-takes-center-stage-in-wv-governor-s-race/article_dce46522-393f-5efc-917e-68a918b4df3b.html. The West Virginia Department of Commerce is the lead agency for the administration of CDBG-DR funds. Does HUD have a proposed Action Plan amendment from the state to move authority for the CDBG-DR funding from Commerce to the West Virginia National Guard?

No.

This situation has gone on for a long time. Has HUD provided written guidance on this matter over the past year or so?

No.

Has there been recent guidance from HUD to West Virginia about its continued designation as a slow spender?

Again, I refer you to the substantial HUD-funded technical assistance we are providing to West Virginia to increase its capacity. We also have regular communication with state recovery staff (including a call just yesterday!).

Can you confirm or characterize an examination of West Virginia's disaster relief by HUD's OIG?

No. We recommend that you contact HUD's OIG directly with this question.